

AN

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# ACCOUNT

OF THE

*Rotherham*

*Rotherham Independent Academy,*

WHICH WAS

*afterwards  
College.*

Opened November 5, 1795.

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Addressed to the religious Public, and particularly the  
Subscribers to the Institution.

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1 Tim. iv. 15. " Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them, that thy  
profiting may appear to all.

2 Tim. ii. 2, 4. " And the things thou hast heard of me—the same commit thou to  
faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.



SHEFFIELD:

PRINTED FOR RIDGARD AND BENNETT,

1797.

ACCOUNT



1. The first of the several items of the account is a bill of exchange for the sum of one hundred dollars, drawn by the United States Treasury Department on the United States Bank of New York, dated the 1st day of January, 1862.

SHIRAZI  
NEW YORK



## AN ACCOUNT,

&c.

**T**O every sensible observer, the great importance of the *gospel ministry* must appear sufficiently evident, as it has a powerful and extensive influence on society; and, to every religious character, still more evident, because a gospel ministry is of *divine institution*, and has been in all ages eminently owned as the means of begetting and nourishing the life of grace, directing men to the righteousness of faith, the unfearchable riches of Christ, and eternal glory.

But, if the ministry of the gospel be confessedly of great moment, we must also admit that academical institutions, which have, for their  
object,

object, a *suitable preparation* for the ministry, are proportionally momentous. Though a gracious heart and good natural abilities, are the primary qualifications for the ministerial work, and the influences of the divine spirit the principal cause of all usefulness, yet this is not an argument against literature and the study of improvement, since God produces effects, in grace as well as nature, by the use of means. And, if some ministers have been *useful without* previous academic studies, it is sufficient to observe, that they might have been *more so with* these preparatory aids.

A consideration of the importance of the gospel ministry, and particularly of an *academical institution*, founded on the best principles, and conducted in a proper manner, gave rise, about forty years ago, to a "Society for educating young Men for the work of the ministry, in the West Riding of the County of York." At first, a few ministers and gentlemen in *London* deliberated on some happy method of dispelling the "cloud of Socinian darkness then spreading over the northern counties of England," to use their own words, by which many congregations might be blessed with godly preachers, found in the faith and exemplary in their lives.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, on *May 24, 1756*, a *society* was formed of ministers and other gentlemen, for this purpose ; when they agreed to support an academy in the north of England, as a probable mean of raising the interest of religion in that part of the kingdom. At the same time it was unanimously agreed, That the Rev. JAMES SCOTT, of *Heckmond-wike*, be employed in the education of young men in grammar learning and academical studies.— That the great design of obtaining a converted ministry might be properly forwarded, it was agreed, “ That no young man be proposed until he hath produced an account, in writing, of the reason of his hope, and of what he apprehends to be the principal doctrines of christianity.” It was also agreed, “ That no student should be taken under the care of the society ’till he hath been three months with the tutor, at the expence of the society, for the trial of his abilities and application to study ; and that the tutor be desired to acquaint the society with his opinion of each young man, upon the expiration of the time allotted for such a trial.”

The success of that undertaking hath been eminently great; places have been supplied with faithful and valuable ministers in *Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Westmoreland, &c.*

The streams of this fountain have been signally blessed for refreshing and making fruitful many congregations which were like a dry and barren wilderness.

Such was the origin and usefulness of that institution, under the patronage of the society, and the labours of the Rev. JAMES SCOTT, whose praise is yet in the churches, and who continued tutor till his death, which took place in *January, 1783.* † Not long after, the Reverend SAMUEL WALKER succeeded. As he was fixed at *Northuram*, the academy was removed thither. And, though it soon appeared that the important post was not filled with equal satisfaction to the public, many useful ministers were brought up there in the course of twelve years. \*

Some

† An excellent *painting* of this venerable man, 35 inches by 30, was lately presented to the academy, by Mr. SAMUEL MARSHALL, of *Sheffield*, to whom the institution is yet further indebted,

\* It may gratify the reader to have here a list inserted of persons educated in this academy, from its rise to its dissolution. The writer of this cannot answer for the correctness of the list, but it is the



Some years before the dissolution of the old academy, the public, and particularly the churches in

the most correct he could procure. The letter *d.* after a name denotes that the person is *deceased*.

By the Rev. Mr. Scott, of *Heckmondwike*:

Waldegrave,	St. Edmunds Bury,	Suffolk.
Priestley,	Jewin Street,	London.
Plumbe,	Nottingham, <i>d.</i>	
Allott,	Forton,	Lancashire, <i>d.</i>
Popplewell,	Beverley,	Yorkshire, <i>d.</i>
Tetley,	Sowerby,	Ditto, <i>d.</i>
Gurnall,	Delph,	Ditto, <i>d.</i>
Tunstall, <i>d.</i>		
Pratman,	Cotherstone,	Ditto.
Lambert,	Hull,	Ditto.
Toothill,	Hopton,	Ditto.
Armitage,	Chester, <i>d.</i>	
Dawson,	Cleck Heaton.	Yorkshire,
Offwood,	London.	
Galland,	Holmfirth,	Ditto, <i>d.</i>
Linnett,	Okeham,	Rutlandshire, <i>d.</i>
Brook,	Stockport,	Cheshire, <i>d.</i>
Clegg,	Sunderland,	Durham.
Shufflebottom,	Bungay,	Suffolk.
Carter,	Matelshall,	Norfolk.
Bottomley,	Scarbro'	Yorkshire.
Craw,	North Waltham,	Norfolk, <i>d.</i>
Scott,	Hinkley,	Leicestershire.
Ashburn,	Gloucester,	
Whitehead,	Charlesworth,	Derbyshire.
		Pickersgill,

in *Yorkshire*, grew dissatisfied, and the subscriptions were considerably reduced. However, the charity

Pickerfhill,	near London.	
Grimshaw,	Forton,	Lancashire.
Gill,	Market Harbro'	Leicestershire.
Walker,	Northouram,	Yorkshire, d.
Hollingworth,	declined the Ministry.	
Northend,	Haslingden,	Lancashire.
Grundy,	Lutterworth,	Leicestershire.
Sykes,	Guestwick,	Norfolk.
Bruce,	Liverpool,	Lancashire.
Pickles,	America, d.	
Sharp,	Wigan,	Lancashire.
Spencer, d.		
Cockin,	Halifax,	Yorkshire,
Wearing,	Rendham,	Suffolk.
Sutcliffe,	Chapel-en-le Frith,	Derbyshire.
Blackburn,	Delph,	Yorkshire.
Kenworthy,	Warrington,	Lancashire.
Rhodes,	New York,	North America.
Hogg,	Thrapstone,	Northamptonshire.
Stephenfon,	Trowbridge,	Wiltshire.
Simpfon,	Hoxton,	London.
Wilby,	declined the Ministry.	
Bruce,	Wakefield,	Yorkshire.
Scholefield,	Henley,	Oxfordshire.
Smith,	Leek,	Staffordshire.
Wilkinson,	Howden,	Yorkshire.
Tapp,	South Cave,	Ditto.
Bartlet,	New Malton,	Ditto.
Townsend,	Darwen,	Lancashire.
Hudson,	Tintwistle,	Cheshire.
		Smalley,

charity that suffereth long, is kind and not easily provoked, prevented precipitate steps: it was wil-

B

lingly

Smelley,	Grimsby,	Lincolnshire.
Toothill,	Rainford,	Lancashire.

The following were transferred to Mr. *Walker*.

Howlton,	Saffron Walden,	Essex,
Senior,	Elswick,	Lancashire, <i>d</i> .
Wood,	declined the Ministry.	
Whiteley,	Tockholes,	Lancashire.
Peele,	Workington,	Cumberland.
Kirkby,	Creek,	Norfolk.
Dawson,	Keyworth,	Nottinghamshire.
Plummer,	Whitley,	Yorkshire, <i>d</i> .
Laird,	Pudsey,	Ditto.
Lyndall,	Bridlington,	Ditto.

By the Rev. Mr. *Walker*, of *Northbourn*.

*Wafs*, *d*. while a Student.

*Tomlinson*, *d*. while a Student.

Brettell,	Gainfbrough,	Lincolnshire.
Maurice,	Fetter-lane,	London.
Crowther,	Clare,	Suffolk.
Vint,	Idle,	Yorkshire.
Hindle,	Haslingden,	Lancashire, <i>d</i> .
Sowden,	Horton,	Yorkshire.
Reyner,	Bulhouse,	Ditto, <i>d</i> .
Hollingworth,	Brighouse,	Ditto.
Boothroyd,	Pontefract,	Ditto.
Smith,	Gatley,	Cheshire.
Stirrett,	Keighley,	Yorkshire, <i>d</i> .
		Crowther,

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Sykes,	Guestwick,	Norfolk.
Bruce,	Liverpool,	Lancashire.
Pickles,	America, d.	
Sharp,	Wigan,	Lancashire.
Spencer, d.		
Cockin,	Halifax,	Yorkshire,
Wearing,	Rendham,	Suffolk.
Sutcliffe,	Chapel-en-le Frith,	Derbyshire.
Blackburn,	Delph,	Yorkshire.
Kenworthy,	Warrington,	Lancashire.
Rhodes,	New York,	North America.
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Smith,	Leek,	Staffordshire.
Wilkinson,	Howden,	Yorkshire.
Tapp,	South Cave,	Ditto.
Bartlet,	New Malton,	Ditto.
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Vint,	Idle,	Yorkshire.
Hindle,	Haslingden,	Lancashire, <i>d.</i>
Sowden,	Horton,	Yorkshire.
Reyner,	Bulhouse,	Ditto, <i>d.</i>
Hollingworth,	Brighouse,	Ditto.
Boothroyd,	Pontefract,	Ditto.
Smith,	Gatley,	Cheshire.
Stirrett,	Keighley,	Yorkshire, <i>d.</i>
		Crowther,

lingly hoped that affairs would assume a better aspect, and the necessary reformation would take place; but these charitable hopes were followed with disappointments. At length, decisive measures were adopted for the revival of the old, or the institution of a new academy on a plan a little more enlarged.

WILLIAM FULLER, Esq. of *London*, was, from the beginning, an active and liberal encourager of the *Yorkshire* academy; he was also the treasurer, and, as the subscriptions came in very slowly, was, of course, a considerable loser. This indication of the determined mind of the country, induced him to write as follows :

“ TO

Crowther,  
Laycock,  
Hinchliff,  
Dewhurst,  
Sugden,  
Taylor,  
Ely,  
Batley,

Stockport,  
Pitfgrove,  
Booth,  
Keighley,  
Moor-green,  
Offset,  
Bury,  
Marple-bridge,

Cheshire, *d.*  
West Jersey, N. A.  
Yorkshire.  
Ditto.  
Nottinghamshire.  
Yorkshire.  
Lancashire.  
Derbyshire.

" TO JOSHUA WALKER, ESQ.

" *London, June 27, 1794.*

" DEAR SIR,

" Yesterday, the society that has supported the academy at *Northouram* had a general meeting: on examining my accounts, it appeared, that I am in advance 545l. and, in consequence, came to a resolution, that it was no longer practicable to continue the academy in its present state, the finances being so much reduced; therefore Mr. WALKER could be no longer considered as tutor to that seminary. The way is now open for gentlemen in the country to shew their zeal to establish an academy in the neighbourhood of Halifax, or some other populous part of the country. The support and conduct of it must depend upon the contributions in the country, as well as the choice of a tutor; in which I hope they will be happily directed to one with all desirable qualifications, and I hope there are gentlemen in *London* who will contribute towards the expence of such an important institution.

" I am, with great esteem, &c.

" W. FULLER."

In

In consequence of this letter, the subject of the academy occupied the warmest attention of several gentlemen and ministers: Mr. JOSHUA WALKER went to a meeting of ministers at *Holmfirth*, and communicated the contents to those present, when Mr. MOORHOUSE was requested to write a circular letter, which is here subjoined;

“ *Huddersfield, July 12, 1794.*

“ REV. SIR,

“ I am ordered to inform you, that at our monthly lecture, held at *Holmfirth*, on the 9th instant, several letters were read from Mr. FULLER, of *London*, positively declaring, that Mr. WALKER had been dismissed from being tutor of the *Yorkshire* academy, and requesting the country ministers to take the matter into their own hands. It was, therefore, resolved to call a general meeting of ministers and gentlemen, to deliberate upon the choice of a proper person to fill up that important office; and also to form a general judgment, so far as can be done, respecting the prospect of supporting the above declining institution, by contributions from the several congregations in this county and adjacent parts. The  
meeting



meeting to be held on Wednesday the 30th inst. at *Leeds*. Your attendance, Sir, if possible, and a friend with you, is earnestly requested, but if not, then your letter, previous to the meeting, will be gratefully acknowledged by, &c.

“ W. MOORHOUSE.”

Accordingly, a *general* meeting was held at *Leeds*, July 30, 1794, consisting of *twenty* ministers and *twelve* lay gentlemen, when the following resolutions were adopted:—“ That an academy, established upon a respectable footing, in such a situation as shall be judged most eligible, will be of the greatest importance to the promotion of religion: That it is the opinion of the meeting, that so much of a plan, read by the Rev. Mr. KENNEDY, as respects the appointment of two tutors for the proposed academy, be recommended: That the students shall be put under the care of the Rev. T. VINT, until the plan of the proposed academy be finally arranged: That a committee, consisting of *ten* persons, *five* of whom to make a *quorum*, be appointed, for the purpose of collecting and receiving propositions from the representatives of any churches, and holding correspondence with them, or any others, whereby

whereby the design of establishing an academy upon a respectable plan may be best promoted; and to report their proceedings at a general meeting of the representatives of churches, to be held at *Halifax*, on the eleventh day of Sept. next.—That it be recommended to all the gentlemen present, to lay this business before their respective congregations and friends, to solicit their assistance in promoting a plan of the said academy, and to attend the above meeting, in order to arrange the business of this institution.—That it be recommended to the committee (to be appointed) that such parts of the proceedings of this meeting as may be thought necessary, be immediately printed, and sent to all the churches in connexion, requesting their sentiments upon the same, addressed to the Rev. W. MOORHOUSE, *Huddersfield*, on or before the third day of September next ensuing.”

At this meeting a committee was formed consisting of *five* ministers, and *five* other gentlemen, who were “ requested to take such steps, and bring forward such a plan, at the general meeting, as may tend to bring the business to a speedy issue.” Accordingly, a *committee meeting* was held at *Huddersfield*, the 15th of *August*, 1794, by whom the following memorial and several resolutions were drawn up:—“ When this part of the kingdom  
was

was almost covered with gross darkness, and very little evangelical preaching, or knowledge of the truth, was found in this or the adjoining counties, it pleased the merciful Parent of the universe so to order, in the course of divine Providence, that an academy should be instituted, for the purpose of educating pious young men for the ministry.— This institution, which has continued for near forty years, has, by the blessing of God, been of special service to the churches of Christ, and, in the general, answered all the designs and wishes of the benevolent supporters thereof. Useful, laborious ministers have been raised up, and called forth, to preach the gospel in many places where no such thing had been heard for many years, perhaps for ages,—so that not only we, but numbers of the churches, have cause to be abundantly thankful for the gracious event.

“ The above academy being now vacant, and the present age requiring as much, if not more than ever, that ministers of the gospel should be acquainted with the different branches of literature, we judge it our indispensable duty to come forward and exert all our abilities, trusting that our friends in general will gladly afford their assistance, both with their advice and property, not only to *preserve*, but also to *enlarge*, an institution

tution of such importance to the cause of Christ, and the spiritual welfare of souls, in future ages: with these views, your committee has unanimously resolved," &c.\*

On September 11, 1794, the proposed general meeting was held at *Halifax*, when the following address and resolutions were proposed and sanctioned. " *To the friends of religion* :—An able gospel ministry has ever been considered one of the greatest blessings which God has bestowed upon the church,—and various are the means which he has adopted, in different ages, to furnish men for that important office. When serious men, who wished to preach the gospel among the dissenters, where their labours were much wanted, found the *national seminaries* shut against them, it pleased the great Head of the church to put it in the hearts of some well disposed gentlemen, in *London*, to institute an academy in the West Riding of *Yorkshire*, for the instruction of such as intended

\* The *resolutions* of this committee meeting, being in some instances either altered or annulled by those of the *general* meeting, are here omitted; but those which are finally confirmed will be inserted in the resolutions of the next general meeting. This method, to avoid unnecessary repetitions, will be observed respecting all future resolutions.



tended to enter upon that sacred work. This academy, which has subsisted near forty years, has served many valuable purposes to the church of Christ in this part of the kingdom. The great distance of it, however, from the metropolis, where its benevolent supporters and directors mostly resided, has, for some years, circumscribed its usefulness, and required an alteration suitable to the increasing demands of the public.

“ Those gentlemen in *London*, therefore, who formerly supported the above academy, having lately declared it *vacant*; and requested the country ministers and gentlemen to take it into their own hands, it was agreed at a general meeting, convened at *Leeds*, on the 30th of *July* last, that an *Academy*, upon a more respectable plan, was highly necessary for the interest of religion in this part of the country; and, in order to promote this desirable institution, they appointed a committee, composed of five ministers and five lay-gentlemen, to digest a plan to be laid before their next general meeting, at *Halifax*, on the 11th of *September*. The general meeting this day received the report of their committee, and, having considered it maturely, adopted it, with some improvements, as the plan on which they wished the academy to be conducted, as evidently calculated

culated to secure many solid advantages to the church of Christ, and *appointed it to be laid before the public* for their approbation. But as this enlarged, improved plan, which seems to promise so many advantages, cannot be carried into execution without the liberal exertions of the generous public, this meeting consider it *their duty to solicit the united efforts of the friends of religion*, to support a cause in which their dearest interests are so deeply concerned, not doubting, that they will cheerfully subscribe to an institution, the necessity and utility of which are so universally acknowledged."

The *resolutions* of this meeting, which continue in force, are as follows:—"That this academy be considered as a *new institution*: That it appears to this general meeting highly expedient to the interests of religion, that an academy should be established in some adjoining part, to instruct serious young men, with a view to the ministry, in the different branches of literature and divinity; that they may come forth with a prospect of being more acceptable to the public, and more useful in the Lord's vineyard, than otherwise they could be: That, convinced of the superior advantages to be expected from *two* tutors, this meeting adopt this enlarged plan: That the  
election

election of both tutors shall be made by a *majority* of ministers and gentlemen, at a general meeting to be held for that purpose, who shall then have become subscribers for themselves or their respective congregations: That no person shall be chosen tutor, or sub-tutor, but such as are of most approved piety, learning, diligence, fidelity, and Calvinistic Independent Dissenters; and if they, who are chosen, should afterwards depart from their once professed Calvinistic principles, the subscribers, on being convinced of this change of sentiments, shall, at their annual meeting called for that purpose, be at liberty to dismiss them: That the intention of the subscribers may be fully carried into execution, they shall choose, out of their own number, a committee of twenty-four (twelve of whom shall be ministers and twelve laymen) to whom the management of the academy shall be intrusted: \* That on the first *Wednesday* in *June*, † annually, there shall be a general

\* The *committee meeting* was here appointed to be held *quarterly*, but is now fixed for the first *Wednesday* in *January* every year. The principal *stated object* of it, beside the ordinary business and welfare of the institution, is to examine and *finally admit* such young men as were admitted in *September* preceding, as probationers.

† The principal *stated object* of the *general meeting* is, to witness the proficiency of the students, in addition to what the above rule states. These are the only meetings in the year *statedly* held; but  
in

general meeting of the subscribers, in the academy, when the minutes of the committee shall be read and signed, and a new committee chosen for the ensuing year. If any *amendment* shall suggest itself to the committee, they shall lay it before the next general meeting. That the general meeting shall annually appoint a treasurer and deputy-treasurers, in the several districts of the country, who shall receive the subscriptions and collections, and transmit them to the treasurer once a year, to be laid by him before the next *general meeting*. That the public may feel themselves interested in this institution, it may be proper that every congregation, who shall contribute to the support thereof, shall have the power to send one person to act for them at all the *general meetings*, and shall have a *printed statement of the academy* laid before them *every year*; and that every person, who subscribes one guinea annually, may attend all general meetings, and vote in his own individual right.

“ That no student shall be admitted into the academy for any other professional purpose whatever,

in case of unexpected important business, a special committee meeting is called. The decisions of the committee, whether stated or special, are finally submitted to the general meeting.



ever, but that of being better qualified for the ministry. That none but truly serious men be educated for the sacred ministry; such as *wish to enter the academy shall bring a recommendation from the minister and church to which they belong*, as persons who know the power of divine grace upon their own hearts; that, along with this recommendation, they produce, in *writing, reasons of the hope that is in them*: and the committee themselves shall then examine them, as to their religious and moral conduct, and qualifications for entering upon an education for the important work they have in view. That none be admitted but such as possess a competent share of *natural abilities for learning*, the committee shall allow those who apply for admission liberty to remain in the academy, at the public expence, from — to —; \* when, if they give satisfaction, they shall be finally admitted: and that *admission shall not take place at any other time of the year*. That every student, except such as are able and willing to support themselves, shall have education, board and

\* The time, specified in the resolution, was “the first *Wednesday* in *September*, till the first *Wednesday* in *December*,” but it has been since fixed “from the *first day* of *September*,” or as soon after as possible, “to the *first Wednesday* in *January*,” the day of examination by the committee.

and lodging **GRATIS**, together with the use of such necessary *books* † as may be in the academy, during his residence there. Such as are able and willing to support themselves, shall be allowed the benefit of education only. That every student, at his admission, shall promise to continue at the academy four years; but the committee shall always enjoy a discretionary power of shortening his time of attendance, as his abilities, and

† It may be noticed here, that the *library* of the *old institution* has been *purchased* by the committee, that they voted 20*l.* for the repairing of it, and the purchase of some books immediately wanted—that, in the course of the last year, JOSEPH WALKER, Esq. made a liberal present of truly excellent books, on general literature, to the library, to the full value of 100*l.* And, in *January* last, THOMAS WALKER, Esq. made a donation of 100*l.* for the same laudable purpose. It may occur to some, who are not much conversant with libraries, that ours is of sufficient size, and that we need no more; but it should be remarked, that the *old library* was indeed very small for a public one, as well as in bad condition—and that our collection, though chosen with care, is far from being full and complete. We, therefore, still hope, that these generous examples will not be viewed in a light unfriendly to its further increase. Our principal deficiency, however, is the want of an useful *apparatus*; but we must acknowledge with gratitude, that we are not entirely destitute of encouragement in that respect; for, by the chearful contribution of some Ladies in the neighbourhood for a large, new pair of *globes*, on the best construction, with recent improvements by Dr. HERSCHEL,—a good foundation is laid.

and the public exigencies shall render expedient.

“ That the undivided attention of the young men may be given to the important business for which they are admitted upon the institution, they shall not be permitted to *preach* for the first three years, except during the vacations, but shall diligently apply themselves to their preparatory studies ; in the 4th year, and 5th if they remain, they shall preach only when they obtain liberty from the tutors and committee. That the committee shall, at every meeting, take an account of the conduct of all the students, and of their proficiencies in their studies, and shall appoint exercises, which they shall hear in rotation, during the whole time they are in the academy, and shall dismiss any whom they find *negligent, incapable or disorderly*.

“ That the *education* of youth may be carried on with method and order, the following, or some similar plan, is *recommended to the committee* to be appointed, viz. The *first* year to be spent in the study of the English and Latin languages, and the art of composition. The *second* year, they shall study the Latin and Greek languages, and shall attend, every lawful day, a lecture on some  
branch

branch of logic or moral philosophy, and another on divinity. The *third* year, beside the study of Latin and Greek, they shall enter upon the study of the Hebrew language, and shall attend, every day, a lecture on some branch of mathematics or natural philosophy, and another on divinity — The *fourth* year shall be spent in the study of Church History and Divinity.\* Those whose superior abilities for learning entitle them to a *fifth* year, shall employ it in revising and perfecting those studies in which they are most defective, and shall be carried forwards in the higher branches of literature.

“ That the public be not imposed upon, no student shall leave the academy to preach till he has obtained a regular certificate, signed by the tutors and committee: which certificate shall be considered as his recommendation to the work of the ministry. That the plan adopted this day shall be immediately printed, and sent to all the congregations, for the names of all who choose to become subscribers; and that, if the subscriptions fall

\* The reader will recollect, that *this plan* is only *commanded* to the committee, whose proper province it is, in conjunction with the tutors, who are always of the committee, to determine the plan and mode of education for the time being.



fall short of the annual expenditure, the several congregations, which take part in this institution, be desired to assist in making up the said deficiency, by an annual collection. That on Wednesday, the 8th of *October* next, there shall be a *general meeting* of the subscribers at *Huddersfield*—to elect tutors—the committee—the place where the academy shall be fixed—the salary of the tutors—and every other thing relative to the said institution—that the academy may be opened as soon as possible.”

Accordingly, a *general meeting* was held, at *Huddersfield*, *October* 8, 1794, when it was *resolved*—“ That it appears, from the statements given to the meeting, that the different congregations, together with friends in *London*, will raise, annually, such sums as will support the academy, if it be put upon the respectable footing which has been held out to the public, in the printed statement of last meeting. That *JOSHUA WALKER*, Esq. be appointed *Treasurer* to this institution. That the ministers of the different congregations do collect the subscriptions, and remit them to the treasurer or to his order. That as there are many circumstances in respect of information, which render a town eligible, and others in respect of retirement, which render a country situation adviseable—it appears to this

D

meeting,

meeting, that the advantages of both, without any material disadvantages, may be enjoyed, in a retired situation, in the neighbourhood of some large town, and, therefore, that such a situation is most desirable \* That the following gentlemen be appointed as a committee, for carrying into execution the intention of the subscribers, according to the plan fixed by the last meeting.

Rev. Mr. Brewer,	Rev. Mr. Bennett,	Rev. Mr. Vint,
Mr. Moorhouse,	Mr. Cockin,	Mr. Hudson,
Mr. Dawson,	Mr. Blackburn,	Mr. M'Quhae,
Mr. Galland,	Mr. Anlezark,	Mr. Hale:

## LAY-GENTLEMEN.

Mr. Walker,	Mr. Houghton,	Mr. Naylor,
Mr. Whittenbury,	Mr. Clapham,	Mr. Ayden,
Mr. Spear,	Mr. Ingham,	Mr. Askwith,
Mr. Kirkpatrick,	Mr. Dickinson,	Mr. Knowles.

“ That every incitement be exhibited to the public, to come chearfully forward in support of the

\* For these reasons, *Nortbournam*, near *Halifax*, was proposed at this meeting as an eligible situation, and Mr. ASKWITH made some generous offers, for which he had the thanks of the meeting; but, in *these* respects, as well as on many other accounts, *Masbrough*, near *Rotherham*, and about five miles from *Sheffield*, is peculiarly well situated. All circumstances taken into the account, perhaps there is not *any place* more eligible for such an institution. May these advantages never be ungratefully estimated, or by negligence misimproved!

the said institution, every person, who shall make a benefaction of *ten guineas*, or upwards, shall enjoy every privilege competent to the annual subscriber: That, as Mr. BENNETT seems to concentrate the wishes of the country at large,—but as it is, at present, doubtful whether he will accept the tutorship or not, this meeting appoint the Rev. Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. J. WHITTENBURY and Mr. J. WALKER, to wait upon him, and to urge every motive they can employ to induce his acceptance; but that, at the end of six weeks from this date, if he refuse, they shall correspond with such as they think qualified to fill that important office.”

The gentlemen above mentioned, who were deputed to wait upon Mr. BENNETT, and, in case of failure in that application, to make further enquiries, and who were called a “a committee of instalment,” printed and *circulated* the following letter, which is inserted in this account as a pleasing evidence that the subject was viewed in a proper light, and that the first step they took in this affair was the most proper that could have been taken;—they began at the *throne of Grace*.

“ *Manchester,*

" *Manchester, October 27, 1794.*

" **REV. SIR,**

" The committee, appointed by the friends of the academy to look out for a proper tutor, have hitherto been unable to prevail with Mr. BENNETT, and their application to another quarter has been equally unsuccessful, nor have they heard of any who appear suitable to a charge of so much trust, whose circumstances give much encouragement to hope that they will be induced to accept of it.

" Deeply convinced, however, of the vast importance of the charge itself, and the difficulty of securing a person properly qualified to fill it with advantage and satisfaction to the public, the committee, as having the interests of religion and of the institution at heart, feel themselves called upon to solicit the assistance of the friends of religion at large, to aid them, by their *united fervent prayers*, in the business intrusted to them.— We, therefore, desire that you will please to lay this our request before your people, and to entreat them that in all their meetings for social and public



public *prayer*, and at any particular season which they shall set apart for this express purpose, they will look up to the Great Head of the church, beseeching Him to direct us to a suitable person, and to dispose him to comply with our solicitations to engage in this honourable but arduous employment. Though our way at present be shut up, we trust that the Great Hearer of prayer will, in due time, grant the desires which His own waiting people offer up to Him, for the advancement of His own kingdom in the earth, and lead us to a person suited to this great undertaking.

“ In the mean time, the public may rest assured, that no diligence nor exertion shall be wanting on the part of the committee, in discharging the trust reposed in them; and that as soon as they obtain any reasonable prospect, that a person, likely to command the public confidence, will accept of the charge, they will call a general meeting for his election. Your serious attention to this our request, in which the interests of religion are so deeply concerned, will much oblige,

“ REV. SIR,

“ Your affectionate friends of the committee, &c.

Very

Very soon after the date of this letter, the Rev. Mr. KENNEDY, who, at the general meeting of October 8, 1794, had been “ *deputed* to wait upon friends in *London*, who were well withers to this institution, to request the continuance of their favours,” took a long excursion, with a special view to the professed object of it. His enquiries were directed to several quarters for many weeks, but were not rewarded with success. Soon after his return to Manchester he opened a correspondence with Dr. WILLIAMS, of Birmingham; from whom, however, he had little room to expect a change of situation, as he had retired from a similar public situation a few years before, on account of personal indisposition and family illness, and as he was connected with an unanimous, respectable people, affectionately attached to him. The design of this account does not require a detail of that correspondence, but when it was closed, after many prayers and consultations with friends, a general meeting was held at *Hali-fax*, *March 12, 1795*, where it was resolved :—

“ That the *committee* be desired to favour the meeting with an account of their proceedings since the last meeting, and with the issue thereof. That this meeting is highly pleased with the correspondence and character of Dr. WILLIAMS,  
and

and unanimously appoint him to be the first tutor. That although the last meeting thought *North-ouram* a proper situation, yet, for reasons, of which they were not fully aware, it now appears (the premises being too small) ineligible, and, therefore, this meeting feel themselves under the necessity of leaving it to the judgment of the annual committee, to be fixed by them as the openings of Providence shall guide their way. That the several subscribers and congregations be desired to transmit their respective sums to the treasurer.

“ The following benefactions were then made :—

“ Rev. T. Kennedy, L. 10 10 0

“ J. Whittenbury, Esq. 50 0 0

“ J. Walker, Esq. - - 50 0 0

“ T. Walker, Esq. - - 50 0 0

“ Who received the thanks of the meeting.

“ That the whole minutes, when printed, be sent to the friends in *London*,—and that the gentlemen in the country be desired to write to their respective

respective friends there, to engage their countenance and support towards this institution.\*

The Rev Mr. GROVE, now of *Walsal*, having resigned the pastoral care of the independent church meeting at *Masbrough*, near *Rotherham*, about eighteen months before, that church was looking out for a pastor; and, among others, Dr. WILLIAMS, in the spring of 1795, supplied and received a call to undertake the pastoral care of them. This it is proper to mention as a circumstance closely connected with the following resolutions, and of considerable importance as an inducement to accept the tutorship.

At a meeting of the committee, held at *Huddersfield*, June 17, 1795, JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. in the chair, it was resolved—"That Dr. WILLIAMS having received a call to the pastoral office

\* It may be necessary to remark here, that the Rev. Mr. BERRY, then of *Westbromwich*, now of *Homerton*, was unanimously chosen as the other tutor. Mr. BERRY thought proper to decline acceptance, and it now appears that Providence had intended him for a station more conspicuous and important—that of the boarding tutor at *Homerton* academy. May he be abundantly honoured in securing the respectability and promoting the usefulness of that institution, to which the congregational churches of England are already so much indebted!



fice of the church and congregation at *Masbrough*,  
 near *Rotherham*, this, and other concurring cir-  
 cumstances, seeming to point out *Rotherham* as a  
 proper situation for the academy: it is, therefore,  
 resolved, that this academy be fixed there, pro-  
 viding that Dr. WILLIAMS accept the call to that  
 church. That the president having corresponded  
 with Mr. BERRY, agreeable to the wishes of the  
 last general meeting, a letter from him was read,  
 wherein he declines the appointment to the office  
 of second tutor,—therefore, the appointment of  
 another person to fill up that station stands over  
 to the next general meeting. That a sum, not  
 exceeding *five hundred pounds*, be expended in  
 making suitable accommodations for the institu-  
 tion, and that a proper yearly rent, *per centage*,  
 be allowed for such sum expended. That JOSHUA  
 WALKER, Esq. having offered to lay out the  
 sum necessary to accommodate the institution,  
 shall have an allowance of seven and a half  
 per cent. per annum, on such sum expended.—  
 That this institution be denominated the *Rotherham*  
*Independent Academy*. That application, by letter,  
 be made to such congregations as are likely to  
 give support to this institution, and have not yet  
 come forward to signify their intention. That  
 the Rev. Mr. MOORHOUSE be requested to have  
 the minutes of this day's business printed, toge-  
 ther with Dr. WILLIAMS's answer, so soon as  
 E obtained,

obtained, and circulate the same as may appear necessary." \*

The answer, now alluded to, and which is inserted in this account for the sake of impressing the reader's mind with an important sentiment it contains, relative to candidates for the christian ministry, now follows:—

“ To the Rev. Mr. MOORHOUSE, *Huddersfield*.

“ *Birmingham, August, 20, 1795.*

“ DEAR SIR,

“ To you, as the secretary of the committee appointed to manage the Yorkshire New Academical Institution, I send my final answer. Sensible of my own insufficiency without divine aid, and relying on the God of grace for supplies, I think the way of duty seems plain for me to accept,

\* A donation of twenty pounds was then made to the institution, by Mr. ROBERT SPEAR, *Manchester*, for which he received the thanks of the meeting.

cept, in the name of the Lord, the important office to which I am invited, at *Rotherham*.\*

“ Permit me to say, that one of the principal circumstances that encourages my compliance, is, the persuasion that the churches and ministers in *Yorkshire*, and especially the committee, are peculiarly intent on the *religious* qualifications of the young men whom they mean to recommend as students. This, I hope, they will never lose sight of; as I am fully assured that an *unconverted ministry* is the bane of the christian cause, and the dead weight of the churches. The evil occasioned thereby is beyond calculation. This is a prolific cause of scepticism and infidelity; this grieves the godly, and corrupts the rising generation; this hardens formal professors, and keeps in countenance, to their own destruction, those who slumber and sleep in the church of Christ.

“ It is, therefore, in this hope, that the utmost attention and assiduity will be exercised in recommending young men, without being unduly biassed by carnal considerations, the obliging of parents or friends, &c. that I now engage; further

\* When this was written, the invitation to the pastoral office at *Masbro'*, near *Rotherham*, had been answered in the affirmative.

ther hoping, that thereby God will be glorified, the kingdom of Christ advanced, and many of the fallen race of Adam now living, and thousands yet unborn, will be essentially and everlastingly benefited.

“ I sincerely and earnestly solicit your prayers, and those of my brethren, for me, that I may obtain ability and strength, according to my day and difficulties, in so arduous an undertaking; and that the Lord will be pleased to support me under the present very weighty domestic trial by the loss of my dear partner. Her last illness and death, and some other important circumstances, have been the cause of your not receiving this final determination sooner. And I must further add, that, owing to the present state of my family and flock, it will not be in my power to be at *Rotherham* to receive the students before the 1st of *October*. In the mean time, I remain,

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Your very affectionate friend and brother,

“ EDWARD WILLIAMS.”



It is greatly to be wished, that the readers of this account, and especially all who have any concern in recommending young men to become students for the ministry, were sufficiently impressed with the importance of the *religious* qualifications of candidates, and the evil of an unconverted ministry. This subject is of such magnitude that it well deserves to be disseminated among our churches and congregations in a separate work. Above *forty years* ago, there was published a valuable pamphlet with this design, which, there is reason to think, was very useful: the title of it is—"A serious address to all sober Christians of every denomination amongst Protestant Dissenters; especially those of affluent circumstances in Town and Country, on the important subject of a gospel ministry. Wherein the *Grand Qualification* for the Ministerial Office is suggested, and the necessity of a more general concern, and of more effectual measures, for the suitable supply of our destitute Communities, is represented with earnestness and candour." This pamphlet, though anonymous, is ascribed to Dr. CONDER; and the spirit of it is worthy of that venerable Christian minister and tutor, who, though dead, yet speaketh. As the publication itself is very scarce, and the design of it comports exactly

exactly with the object of this account, the following extract is here subjoined :—

“ Every generation of wise and serious Christians are, in fact, constituted *trustees* for the succeeding; and that in an affair of infinitely greater consequence than the preservation of liberty, property, and every other secular and civil immunity. In this point of view my subject *bespeaks*, yea *claims*, every reader's attention; not from curiosity, but duty; not as a stander-by, but a party concerned: and it is my sincere endeavour to awaken, in the breasts of others, a conviction that has long possessed my own, *viz.* the necessity of our more *general* efforts, and the propriety of some *farther* and *more effectual* measures, in favour of the present and rising generations.

“ A number of congregations are destitute, and with difficulty have many been of late supplied with such as have proved duly qualified for so important a service; and I must beg leave to add, that others, too many others, in one place and another, are under most visible decays of real and vital religion, through the unsuitableness and insufficiency of those that have been recommended to the ministry among them.

“ The

“ The exceeding great *latitude in principles*, which many of our young divines have of late years set out with, farther accounts for this matter. By the latitude of principles which is here complained of, I would not be understood to mean every departure from generally received articles of the Christian faith, in less momentous and extra-essential matters, but that *general dislike* and *disuse* of the great doctrines of scripture and the reformation, which our judicious and pious forefathers maintained to the hazard of their lives—which it is now become fashionable and polite to oppose, and run down, as enthusiastic, irrational and absurd.

“ A further source of the churches’ present wants, is the *promiscuous admission* of such as offer themselves for academical instructions. The end that is confessedly proposed, by assisting youth in a liberal education, is, that our congregations may be supplied with an *able* and *useful* ministry; that they may not only have a succession of teachers, but teachers *worth* their hearing; such as are in a good degree possessed of all those qualifications which are esteemed necessary for a right discharge of that sacred undertaking. Now the greater and more immediate *wants* our public assemblies are in, the greater care is necessary, that

none

*none* (if possible) might have academical pains and expences laid out on their education, who will *disappoint* the expectations of their tutors and encouragers, by turning out unqualified and unequal to the work. Every unmeet object takes up the room of a better; and, by this means, the number is lessened, of *those*, that can afterwards, with *credit* and *integrity*, be recommended to the churches.

“ The great question, therefore, stands, What method can be taken, what *means* can be used, which may, with the *divine concurrence*, be effectual to redress so weighty a grievance, and give the friends of religion the pleasing prospect, that they and their posterity shall yet be favoured with that incomparable good, *viz.* a series of pastors after God’s own heart, who shall feed them with knowledge and understanding? The *grand defect* is, *Our receiving and encouraging such youth, through a course of academical studies, as do not appear to be possessed of the most essential qualifications for such encouragement.*

“ According to the whole tenor of the inspired writings, all the advantages of human erudition, all the attainments of polite literature, the utmost polish of the schools, are, at most, but *secondary* qualifications, which may have their use



use in a subordinate way, but are to be never raised in competition with those, which are alone the gift of heaven. Every *good man* is not qualified for a gospel minister, but every gospel minister must necessarily be a good man. *Goodness* is the first, the fundamental, the most essential qualification for the ministry. He is a *good man* who answers to the scripture characteristics of a real Christian. They, and they only, are good Christians in scripture account, who are *partakers of the evangelical grace of regeneration*. It is then *preposterous* in itself, very *dangerous* in its effects, to train up youth for the ministry, who, by no rules of sober judging, answer to the scripture-test of private Christians.

“ What a despicable figure must that minister certainly exhibit, who is devoid of a principle of love to religion and the souls of men ! who feels nothing of that prevailing disposition of soul to universal holiness, which is produced and cherished by the influences of God’s spirit ! To such an one, all grave and religious converse is a painful burthen ; visiting the sick and afflicted is a gloomy task, and his forced attention to the sorrows and complaints of awakened and afflicted consciences is a distasteful drudgery, which he will be sure (what in him lies) to avoid. In a  
F word,

word, what faithfulness and impartiality, what forbearance and self-denial, or what tenderness for the peace of Zion, when any difficulties arise, can be rationally expected from a man who has *self-love* for his *governing principle*, and whose personal reputation and authority, nay, his caprice and humour are dearer to him, by far, than the peace and prosperity of the church of God.

“ Let a minister be master of natural and artificial eloquence, let him understand all the secret springs of persuasion, let him be furnished with learning and knowledge, yet he is not likely to succeed in his divine employment without *sanctifying grace*. It is *that* gives him a tender sense of the *worth of souls*, that warms his heart with ardent requests to God, and with zealous affections to men, for their salvation. Therefore, none but such as are thus divinely qualified, ought, in *Christian conscience* or *prudence*, to be admitted into our seminaries of learning, and assisted in their studies for so sacred an undertaking.”

From this interesting subject we must now return to our narrative. The next general meeting was held at *Huddersfield*, *October 21, 1795*, *JOSHUA WALKER, Esq.* in the chair. Here

was

was resolved,—“ That as the powers of the committee, appointed the 8th of *October* last, to manage the business of the academy, are now expired, the following gentlemen be appointed as a committee, for the management of the business, from this time to the next general meeting, viz.

Rev. E. Williams, D. D.	Rev. Mr. Moorhouse,	Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick
Second Tutor,	Mr. Toothhill,	Mr. Hale,
Mr. Harnier,	Mr. Galland,	Mr. Cockin,
Mr. Brewer,	Mr. Alliot,	Mr. Bruce.

LAY-GENTLEMEN.

J. Whittenbuay, Esq.	Robert Spear, Esq.	Mr. Hodgson,
Joshua Walker, Esq.	Mr. Houghton,	Mr. Brook,
Thomas Walker, Esq.	Mr. Bates,	Mr. Hirst,
Jonathan Walker, Esq.	Mr. Burnley,	Mr. Clapham;

“The Treasurer’s account being audited—That JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. be appointed Treasurer, until the next general annual meeting. That Dr. WILLIAMS be requested to inform the meeting, when he can make it convenient to open the academy,—whose reply was, That he will be able to open the academy on the *5th of November* next. That this academy be opened on that day, and that Dr. WILLIAMS be requested to receive  
such

such young men as come properly recommended, from that day until the first Wednesday in *January* next ; and that they shall continue as probationers until the first *Wednesday* in *March*, when the quarterly meeting will come to a decision respecting their continuance.\* That the annual *vacation* shall always commence on the 1st of *July* and end upon the last day of *August*. That some objections having been made, by a few friends of this institution, to the *eighth* and *ninth* resolutions of the meeting of the 17th of *June* last, as if the committee had not adopted the most frugal mode for building necessary accommodations for the students: this meeting, persuaded that due information and attention would remove those objections, think it necessary, in order to prevent misconstructions, to publish their reasons for fully acceding to the measures adopted by their committee :

“ The house, assigned for Dr. WILLIAMS, was, by no means, sufficient to accommodate both his family and the students, upon the present enlarged

\* Accordingly, *ten* young men came properly recommended within the time specified, of whom *eight* were admitted by the committee of examination in *March*, whose names are inserted in the account of that meeting.



enlarged scale of the academy—Building was unavoidably necessary; nor does it now appear that *convenient apartments* will be fitted up with much less expence than the *sum specified*.\* Our infant fund

\* *Convenient apartments—for the sum specified.* That the apartments are “convenient,” all who have seen them have admitted. But as this account may be perused by some who have no personal knowledge of the building or situation, the following sketch is subjoined:—

The building is *situated* on a gentle eminence, near half a mile from the town of Rotherham, and less from the village of Mafbrough, surrounded by garden and pasture grounds, with retired walks—separated only a few yards from the tutor’s house, and but a small distance from the place of public worship—with two fronts, one to the south-west and the other to the north-east. Its *dimensions* are *forty-six feet by twenty-eight*. The lower part consists of two rooms. The hall is *twenty-five feet by eighteen*, the library *twenty-five feet square*. The two floors above are divided alike, containing each four lodging rooms and seven studies. The passages run the whole length of the building, *five feet wide*, with windows at each end for a plentiful circulation of air. The importance of this article for such a building, made it advisable to have each window so formed as to admit air both at the top and bottom.—The whole is finished in a neat but plain manner.

He who knows any thing of building will easily perceive, that the structure now described must have cost more money than the “*sum specified* :” the fact is, that though the materials, labour, &c. were procured on the best terms, it cost very near *six hundred pounds*. Mr JOSHUA WALKER, therefore, laid out about 100*l.* more than the specified limitation, of which, at the last committee meeting, he generously made a *present* to the institution.

fund is, at present, unequal to such an expenditure; and to collect the expences from the country, we fear, would have been difficult: but, if that could have been accomplished, ground could not have been bought, the premises not being the individual property of any *one* person concerned in this institution, and we cannot suppose, that the public would deem it judicious to sink five hundred pounds upon premises not secured to the society. Mr. JOSHUA WALKER was, therefore, applied to, who generously agreed to advance the money, and left it wholly with the committee to fix what rental they pleased. Considering that buildings are declining property—that Mr. WALKER has no indemnification, except the building, either for interest or principal, in case the institution should fail or be removed, and that to convert it to any other use will be attended with considerable expence—we are persuaded, that to allow *seven and a half per cent.* for monies advanced upon a footing so precarious, cannot justly be deemed unreasonable: and, upon the present plan, the society has neither ground to buy, ground-rent to pay, nor any incumbrance with the building, in case of failure.”\*

According

\* It may be observed here, that Mr. ADAM HOPE, of *Bolton-le-Moors*, was chosen at this meeting to the office of second tutor, but which he thought proper to decline.

According to the resolution above mentioned, the academy was opened on November 5, 1795; when, and a short time after, *ten* young men entered as probationers. But as the time of admission was, in this instance, full two months later than the period now fixed, on which account the committee meeting was deferred till the first Wednesday in *March*, it was found necessary to hold a special committee meeting at the Academy on *January* 27, 1796—JONATHAN WALKER, Esq. in the chair. In this meeting it was resolved, "That the steps taken by Dr. WILLIAMS, in his correspondence with Mr. ADAM HOPE, are approved of; and that, as Mr. ADAM HOPE declines accepting the office of second tutor on the terms proposed, another suitable person should be sought without delay. That the Rev. MAURICE PHILLIPS, of *Brigstock*, appears to this meeting, from favourable representations and personal knowledge, highly eligible as second tutor, and is unanimously chosen to fill that office; and that Dr. WILLIAMS be requested to take such steps as he shall find necessary to secure Mr. PHILLIPS's acceptance of the appointment."—The following meeting was held, as before noticed, for the examination of the candidates.

"*Masbrough,*

*" Masbrough, March 2, 1796.*

**JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. in the Chair.**

**PRESENT,**

Rev. Dr. Williams,	Mr. Naylor,	Mr. Brook,
Mr. Galland,	Mr. Spear,	Mr. Houghton,
Mr. Alliott,	Mr. Clapham,	Mr. Hirst,
Mr. Cockin,	Mr. Hodgson,	Mr. Bates,
M <sup>r</sup> . Moorhouse,	Mr. Burnley,	Mr. Tho. Walker.
Mr. Toothill,	Mr. Jonathan Walker,	

" The general meeting, held at *Huddersfield*, the 21<sup>st</sup> of *October* last, having appointed this day (the first *Wednesday* in *March*) to decide respecting the continuance of such young men as may have entered as probationers, resolved, That this committee do now take the cases of the several young men into their consideration. ABRAHAM HUDSWELL, who had been under the care of the Rev. Mr. WALKER, having expressed a wish to continue so long at this academy as to complete the term of four years—That ABRAHAM HUDSWELL be admitted to all the benefits of this institution until the vacation in 1798. That JOSHUA SHAW, GODFREY THURGARLAND, JOHN HAMSHAW, SAMUEL BRADLEY, ROBERT JENKINSON, THORNHILL KIDD and THOMAS MITCHEL, lately



lately entered as probationers, be admitted to all the benefits of this institution for the term of four years, ending at the vacation of 1799.\*—The first annual examination was in *June* following; a brief account of that meeting, taken from the minutes, is here subjoined.

“ *Masbrough, June 1, 1796.*

“ At a general annual meeting of *The Rotherham Independent Academy*, held this day, JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. in the chair, the young men, having been arranged in classes by Dr. WILLIAMS, gave specimens of their proficiency much to the satisfaction of the meeting.” When also it was resolved, “ That the appointment of the Rev. Mr. PHILLIPS to the office of second Tutor, made at the committee meeting, held *January 27*, be now confirmed. That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee for the management of the business of the academy for the ensuing year, viz.

G

Rev.

\* Mr. HUDSWELL was recommended from *Hopton*; SHAW and THURGARLAND from *Huddersfield*; HAMSHAW from *Holmfirth*; BRADLEY from *Birmingham*; JENKINSON from *Pontefract*; KIDD from *Hull*; and MITCHEL from *Horwden*. Two others had been candidates, but were not admitted.

Rev. Dr. Williams,	Mr. Whittenbury,
Mr. Phillips,	Mr. Robert Spear,
Mr. Harmer,	Mr. Joshua Walker,
Mr. Parsons,	Mr. Thomas Walker,
Mr. Moorhouse,	Mr. Jonathan Walker,
Mr. Toothil,	Mr. Read,
Mr. Galland,	Mr. Marshall,
Mr. Alliot,	Mr. John Green,
Mr. Gill,	Mr. W. Butcher,
Mr. Bennett,	Mr. Hodgson,
Mr. Lambert,	Mr. Brook,
Mr. Cockin,	Mr. Burnley:

“ That Mr. JOSHUA WALKER be appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year. That the thanks of the meeting be conveyed by the chairman to Mr. B. MILLS, for his letter to Mr. COCKIN, pointing out a plan for obtaining subscriptions in *London.*”

The next meeting was for the examination and final admission of candidates, an abridged account of which follows:—

“ *Masbrough, January 4, 1797.*

“ At the annual committee meeting of *The Rotherham Independent Academy*, held this day,

JOSHUA

JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. Chairman.

PRESENT,

Rev. Dr. Williams,

Mr. Phillips,

M. Harmer,

Mr. Cockin,

Mr. Moorhouse,

Mr. Galland,

Mr. Thomas Walker,

Mr. Hodgson,

Mr. Burnley,

Mr. Brook,

Mr. Read,

Mr. Marshall,

Mr. Jonathan Walker.

“ Resolved, That the cases of the several young men, who are entered as probationers, be taken into consideration. That THOMAS BURTON, JAMES KAY and JOHN PYE SMITH, be admitted to all the benefits of this institution for the term of four years, ending at the vacation of 1800.\* That ——— and ——— be not admitted to the benefits of this institution; as they do not appear to possess competent abilities to profit thereby.”

The annual meeting in *June* being the last in the year, and held but a short time before the vacation, when the students respectively close their course

\* On account of peculiar circumstances, Mr. J. P. SMITH enters on regular studies after the vacation. Mr. BURTON was recommended from *Pudsey*; KAY from *Bury, Lancashire*; and J. P. SMITH from *Sheffield*.

course of studies, and the pecuniary concerns of the institution are most conveniently balanced, we shall finish our NARRATIVE of the ACADEMY with what it behoves the public to know of that meeting, and the state of our finances.

“ *Masbrough, June 7, 1797.*”

“ At the general annual meeting of *The Rotherham Independent Academy*, held this day, JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. in the chair, resolved, That the resolutions of the annual *committee* meeting, held the 4th of January last, be confirmed. The young men were then called in and examined in their respective classes, when they gave specimens of their proficiency, much to the satisfaction of the meeting. That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee for the management of the business of the academy for the ensuing year, viz.

Rev. Dr. Williams,  
Mr. Phillips,  
Mr. Harmar,  
Mr. Moorhouse,  
Mr. Toothill,  
Mr. Ralph,  
Mr. Boden,  
Mr. Cockin,  
Mr. Blackburn,

Mr. Whittenbury,  
Mr. Spear,  
Mr. Joshua Walker,  
Mr. Thomas Walker,  
Mr. Jonathan Walker,  
Mr. Read,  
Mr. Marshall,  
Mr. Houghton,

Rev.



Rev. Mr. Roby,

Mr. Bruce,

Mr. Laird,

Mr. S. Ho'gson,

Mr. Thomas,

Mr. Burnley,

Mr. Brock.

" That Mr. JOSHUA WALKER be appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Messrs. JOSHUA, JOSEPH and THOMAS WALKER for their liberal benefactions to this institution since the last general meeting."

As the public are solicited, in this account, to afford us *pecuniary* assistance, it is right that the *state of our finances*, receipts and disbursements should be produced; which are as follow:

DR. *The Treasurer of the Rotherham Independent Academy.*

		L.	S.	D.
1797.				
June 30.	To Amount of Donations - - - - -	201	10	0
	To Amount of Subscriptions - - - - -	679	7	1
	To Interest allowed by Treasurer - - -	12	10	0
		<hr/>		
		£.	893	7 1
		<hr/>		

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		L.	s.	D.
1795.				
Oct.	By Rev. Mr. Vint, paid in full - - -	90	10	0
	By Rev. Mr. Kennedy's Expences to London	23	2	0
	By sundry Printing Expences - - -	7	9	0
Dec.	By Rev. Mr. Walker for the Library at } Northouram - - - - -	25	5	0
	By Carriage of Do. - - - - -	2	2	2
	By a Minute and Record Book - - -	0	13	6
1796.				
Dec. 31.	By Repairs of Books, &c. per order of } the Committee - - - - -	20	0	0
	By certain Articles of Furniture for the } Academy Library and Lecture } Rooms - - - - -	40	9	0
	By Mr. A. Hope's Expences from Bolton	1	15	6
	By Rev. Mr. Phillips' Expences from } Erigstock - - - - -	4	13	0
1797.				
June 30.	By Dr. Williams' Salary, the Second Tu- } tor's Salary, and Board of Students, } to this Day - - - - -	598	10	0
	By Balance in the hands of Treasurer -	28	17	11
		£. 893 7 1		

It is the wish of the committee, confirmed by the last general meeting, that not only a LIST of the subscribers, but also the SUM subscribed, of *half a guinea* and upwards, be printed in subsequent

quent reports of the academy. At present it is found impracticable to do more than insert those names that have been sent; it is, therefore, earnestly requested that those who transmit the subscriptions to the Treasurer will, at the same time, give in the names of the subscribers of the above description, with the respective sums.

### A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

#### A.

Alliott, Rev. Richard,	Nottingham.
Alfop, Mr. William,	Sheffield.
Alfop, Mr. John,	Do.
Armitage, Joseph,	Longroyd Bridge.

#### B.

Barber, Mr.	Rotherham.
Barrett, Mrs.	Sheffield.
Beatson, Mr.	Masbrough.
Batley, John	Crosland Edge.
Beeley, Mr.	Cottingham.
Beaumont, Abraham,	Huddersfield.
Birch, Mr. Henry,	Sheffield.
Birks, Mr. Ebenezer	Do.
Boden, Rev. James,	Do.
Booth, Mr.	Masbrough.
Bowden, Mr.	Hull.

Bowman,

Bowman, Mr.	Sheffield.
Bradford Congregation,	Rev. Mr. Holdgate:
Briggs, Mr.	Hull.
Briggs, Mr.	Melton.
Brook, Mr. John,	Flash House.
Brown, Mr.	Hull.
Bulgard, Mr.	Manchester.

## C.

Carlyle, Mr.	Cottingham.
Carnelley, Mr.	Melton.
Carr, Mr.	Rotherham.
Carr, Mr. George	Sheffield.
Chambers, Mr.	Nottingham.
Chinley Congregation,	Rev. William Sutcliffe.
Clapham, Mr.	Leeds.
Clark, Mr.	Nottingham.
Clark, Mr.	Masbrough.
Cleckheaton Congregation,	Rev. John Ralph.
Clegg, Mr.	Manchester.
Cockayne, Mrs.	Sheffield.
Cook, Mr.	Do.
Cooper, Mr. Thomas,	Greasbrough.
Crawshaw, Mr.	Masbrough.

## D.

Dawson, Mr. Thomas,	
Dawson, Mr. William,	
Day, Mr.	Cottingham.
Delph Congregation,	Rev. N. Blackburn.
Dunn, Mr.	Nottingham.

## E.



## E.

Egginton, Mrs.	Hull.
Ellis, Mr. S.	Sheffield.
Ellis, Mr. Luke,	Do.

## F.

Frith, Mr. John,	Sheffield.
Friend, Anonymous,	By the Rev. J. T.

## G.

Galland, Mr.	Hull.
Gilder, Mr.	Hull.
Gordon, Mr.	Manchester.
Greaves, Mr.	Sheffield.
Green, Mr.	Nottingham.
Greenacres Congregation,	Rev. Mr. Cole.

## H.

Hague, Mr. Mark,	Almondbury.
Halifax Congregation,	Rev. Joseph Cockin.
Hall, Mr. William,	Quarmby.
Hall, Mr.	Hull.
Hancock, Mr. John,	Sheffield.
Hanson, Mr.	Manchester.
Harmar, Mr. Samuel,	Sheffield.
Harrison, Mr. John,	Greasbrough.
Harrison, Mr. Joshua,	Do.
Heckmondwike Congregation,	Rev. Thomas Hale.
Hieron, Mrs.	Cottingham.

Hirst, Mr.	Rotherham.
Hirst, Mr. Joseph,	Yewgreen.
Hirst, Mr. Richard,	
Hodgson, Mr. Joseph,	
Hodgson, Mr. Edward,	
Holbert, Mr.	Sheffield.
Holmfirth Congregation,	Rev. Robert Galland.
Holy, Mr. Thomas,	Sheffield.
Hope, Mr. John,	Manchester.
Hope, Mr. Samuel,	Do.
Hopton Congregation,	Rev. Jonathan Toothill.
Huddersfield Congregation,	Rev. William Moorhouse.
Houghton, Mr. John,	Huddersfield.
Houghton, Mr. Rowland,	Do.
Hudson, Rev. Mr.	Tintwisle.
Hull Congregation,	Rev. George Lambert.
Hunt, Mr.	Rotherham.

## I.

Idle Congregation,	Rev. William Vint.
Ingham, Mr. Joshua,	

## J.

Jones, Mr.	Hull.
Joule, Messrs. John and Son,	Manchester.

## K.

King, Mr.	Masbrough.
Kitchen, Mr.	Hull.

## L.

## L.

Lambert, Rev. George,	Hull.
Law, Mr. Philip,	Sheffield.
Lea, Miss,	Do.
Leaf, Mr. John,	Do.
Leathley, Mr.	London.
Leeds Congregation,	Rev. Mr. Wilson.
Levitt, Mr. William,	Hull.
Levitt, Mr. N——,	Do.
Loy, Messrs. Jonathan and Son,	Sheffield.

## M.

Macknaught, Mr.	Manchester.
McQuhae, Rev. Mr.	Blackburn.
Malton Congregation,	Rev. John Bartlet,
Manchester Congregation,	in Mosley Street.
Marshall, Mr. Samuel	Sheffield.
Masbrough Congregation,	Rev. Dr. Williams.
Mills, Mr.	Islington.
Moorhouse, Rev. William,	Huddersfield.
Moor, Mr. John,	Paddock.

## N.

Newham, Mr.	Nottingham.
Nicholls, Messrs.	Do.
Northouram Congregation.	
Nottingham Congregation,	Rev. Richard Alliot.
Nutt, Mrs.	Masbrough.

## P.

## P.

Parker, Mrs.	Maibrough.
Parker, Mr. Ebenezer,	Sheffield.
Patten, M. Andrew,	Manchester.
Patten, Mr. Andrew, jun.	Do.
Patterfon, Mr.	Do.
Popplewell, Mrs.	Hull.
Pudsey Congregation,	Rev. Thomas Laird.

## R.

Radford, Mr.	Nottingham.
Read, Mr.	Norton.
Riddell, Mr. Edward,	Hull.
Riddell, Mr. Thomas,	Do.
Rider, Mr.	Malton.
Ridgard, Mr. E.	Sheffield.
Ringrose, Mr.	Cottingham.
Roberts, Mr.	Huddersfield.
Robinson, Mr.	Manchester.
Room, Mr. Thomas,	Sheffield.

## S.

Scatcherd, Mr.	Hull.
Scott, Rev. Jonathan,	Matlock.
Sheffield Congregation,	Rev. John Harmer.
Sheffield Congregation,	Rev. James Boden.
Simpson, Mr.	Nottingham.
Skidmore, Mr. William,	Sheffield.
Smith, Mr. John,	Do.
Spear, Mr. Alexander,	Do.

Spear,



Spear, Mr. John,	Manchester.
Spear, Mr. Robert,	Do.
Spyvie, Mr.	Hull.
Stancliff, Mrs.	
Swift, Mr.	Sheffield.
Stevenfon, Mr.	Nottingham.
Stewart, Mr.	Manchester.
Stuart, Mr.	Do.
Sutcliffe, Mr. Abraham,	Sheffield.
Swanland Congregation,	Rev. Mr. Williams.
Swann, Mr.	Manchester.
Sykes, Mr. James,	Almondbury.

## T.

Tate, Mr. John,	Lockwood.
Thomas, Mr. Lewis,	Sheffield.
Towers, Mrs.	Norton.
Trower, Mrs.	Hell.
Toothill, Rev. Jonathan,	Hopton.

## W.

Wakefield Congregation,	Rev. Mr. Bruce.
Walker, Mrs.	Masbrough.
Walker, Mrs. Samuel and Family,	Do.
Walker, Mr. Joshua,	Clifton.
Walker, Mr. Thomas,	Winkerbank.
Walker, Mr. Samuel,	Masbrough.
Walker, Mr. Jonathan,	Ferham.
Walker, Mrs. Joseph	Eastwood.
Walker, Mr. Thomas,	Hopton.
Wells, Mr.	Malton.
Whitelock, Mrs.	Masbrough.

Whitaker,

Whitaker, Mr. John,	Lane.
Wilson, Mrs.	Sheffield.
Whitcomb, Mr.	Manchester.
Wildsmith, Mr.	Rotherham.
Williams, Mr.	Nottingham.
Wilson, Mr.	Do.
Wilson, Mrs.	Do.
Wilson, Mr. John,	Sheffield.
Wood, Mr.	Manchester.
Wooler, Mr. Charles,	
Wride, Mr.	Cottingham.
Wright, Mr.	Hull.
Wright, Mr.	Nottingham.

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This list, we are conscious, does not contain the names of all the subscribers who are entitled to a place in it, because many sums have been transmitted as only from a *congregation*, without particular names. May we be permitted to suggest to our acting friends, henceforth to request of those in their congregations who ought to appear in our future list, to enter their *names* in a book provided for that purpose, and the *sum* they *purpose to advance* (not what they have done) that there may be neither delay nor difficulty in making our next report.

Subscriptions,

Subscriptions or donations, in money, books, apparatus, &c. for the use of the students, will be thankfully received by the treasurer, tutors, or any one of the committee in the country; and, in LONDON, by

WILLIAM FULLER, Esq. Banker, Lombard Street.

EBENEZER MAITLAND, Esq. King's Arms Yard, Coleman Street.

BENJAMIN MILLS, Esq. Moorfields.

JAMES NEALE, Esq. St. Paul's Church Yard.

Should any be disposed to befriend this institution, and the rising generations, by *legacies*, they may be bequeathed in some such form as this:—" I give and bequeath to

and

[here mention the sum of money, &c.] upon trust, to the intent that they, or one of them, pay the same to the treasurer, for the time being, of the Rotherham Independent Academy, founded in the year 1795, at Masbrough, near Rotherham, in the county of York, and desire and direct that the said [here mention the sum, &c.] be paid out of my personal estate, and applied towards carrying on the laudable intentions of the said academy."

Before

Before we finally close this account, we must rely on the indulgence of that class of the community whom we address, while we urge upon them the importance of countenancing the design of such an institution. Many topics offer themselves; especially the consideration of *whose* cause it is they are called to espouse, the cause of Christ, the cause of God—what *interest* to promote, not that of a party, even religious, much less political, but that of immortal souls, their never-ending happiness—by *what means*, not by the agents of terror and compulsion, or mean intrigues, but by godly men, armed with pure truth, justice, meekness and righteousness—men of grace, prudence and talents, natural and acquired, consecrated to God, our Saviour, and the service of His church, and the arms of whose warfare are not carnal but spiritual. We might also expostulate, if the true friends of Christ do not espouse *His* cause, and do not promote the spiritual and everlasting interests of men, by such means, who, in *this world*, can be reasonably expected to do it?

But instead of pursuing these, and other weighty considerations that might be advanced in our own words, we prefer expressing ourselves in the awakening language of an author already referred



referred to \*, who, by piety, talents and experience, was eminently qualified to dictate on the subject. The first part of what is here inserted, is addressed to the managers and supporters of such religious seminaries. “ Your thoughts and your cares are employed in the most noble, most honourable, and truly christian design ; without a provision of this nature, numbers of our congregations must have dispersed for want of instructors ; your generous and unwearied concern for the public good entitle you, therefore, to the most grateful esteem throughout all the churches. Indulge me with the freedom of addressing you as principals in this affair : to you is intrusted the right application, both of the annual liberalities of the living, and the generous bequests of the dead. How great, how sacred a necessity then, is laid upon you, gentlemen, to see *thoroughly* to the furniture, divine and human, which they are possessed of, who are invited into the pulpits of our destitute assemblies.

“ The gentleman and the scholar are inviting characters ; but they are the mere shell of a gospel minister without the *christian*. Is conversion a reality ? Is there, in fact, such a divine effect of

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\* See page 37 of this Account.

the gospel on the hearts of individuals? And is it one great end of a gospel preached, thus to convert sinners from the error of their ways, into paths of undissembled faith and purity? Surely it must be a momentous point of *conscience*, with all that fear the most high God, strictly to adhere to this one principle in all proceedings and conduct of this nature! It must be a most dangerous oversight and neglect, for any to suffer themselves, knowingly, to depart from it. What does it favour of less than presumption to attempt the qualifying of them to bear office in the church, whom the King of Zion has not qualified for a private station therein? The heart is, indeed, a secret thing locked up from human eyes, and it is the prerogative of heaven alone to search it: nor is it required of you, gentlemen, either by God or man, that you should be infallible, yet it is required of every steward, that he be sound faithful; and a man of integrity, whatever trust he takes upon him, engages to act to the best of his knowledge and judgment. This, but nothing more than this, is required in the present case. I would be far from urging to any censorious, uncharitable, and unchristian temper and proceedings: but where there is not an *affectation* of ignorance, we may be kind, and yet conscientious; charitable, and yet faithful; not

censorious,

censorious, yet, for the most part, sufficiently determined in our judgment, whether the examinant be a fit object of our care and encouragement or not. The tree is certainly known by its fruit, so is the serious Christian by his profession and conduct. Where there is an ingenuous frankness of heart, attended with humility, modesty, and inquisitiveness after knowledge, together with a prevailing seriousness of spirit, and apparent conscientiousness, evidently influencing the general temper and deportment; such a youth, it is certain, is easily to be distinguished from the son of petulance and pride, ignorance and self-conceit, levity, vanity or profaneness!

“ You have your respective friends to oblige — your friends to recommend; and there is no refusing a recommendation when applications are personally made, without giving the greatest offence by such a refusal. But will not a little prudence and resolution sufficiently obviate this difficulty? Every ingenuous and grateful mind would willingly oblige his friend; but he no way deserves that sacred title, who insists upon a man violating his conscience to please him; nor do we, I believe, often find, that a friendship so purchased is worth the possession. There is a pleasure, and may be some worldly advantage, to a tutor, in a large number of students; but he  
that

that has no higher end than his own *vanity* or *gain*, in such an undertaking, is very unworthy of the confidence and credit of it. I am not persuading you to lessen your numbers, rather may they be abundantly increased! but may it be only with such as appear duly, *i. e.* divinely qualified for it. That is the truest charity to ourselves and others, which engages us to that discharge of our respective duties, which we can reflect upon with pleasure on a dying pillow, and which will embalm our memories with the wise and good, when time, as to us, shall be no more. Is it not the truest charity to divert a person's mind from an undertaking he appears entirely unsuitable for? To divert a fond, but ill-founded inclination in time, *i. e.* while he has time before him, for gaining the knowledge of some useful art, or profession, wherein he may be of considerable service in his generation? Besides, is not this unbounded charity to individuals the greatest cruelty to whole communities? If it is so great an hardship to exercise this faithfulness to a youth at his admission, what must it be to desert him when he has finished his studies? The reputation of his tutor, the humanity and compassion of those that have been his friends hitherto, and his present unfitness to enter upon any other calling in life, seem to unite their earnest plea in his favour. Some provision must be made for him, some recommendation

must



must be given him ; but where, and what ?—without the most cruel and uncharitable imposition upon some credulous, injudicious, passive community or other. May integrity and uprightness preserve us ! For *charity* sake, gentlemen, necessitate such youth to make a timely choice of some secular employment ; in *charity* to our tutors, screen them from the discredit of such pupils ; in *charity* to our country congregations, expose them not to the infelicity and mischief of such incompetent instructors ; and, in *charity* to yourselves, determine resolutely so to act in this affair as to keep a conscience void of offence both towards God and man, and that you may reflect upon the whole of your management with an unmixed religious pleasure.

“ How highly expedient, how absolutely necessary, is it that every congregation in city and country should look upon themselves as parties concerned, and that every individual Christian, in his sphere, should be adding his mite for the general good. The obligation is evidently universal, while there is not a christian assembly amongst us that is at present most suitably and happily supplied, can assure themselves of the continuance of the instrument of their prosperity : the sovereign Arbiter of life may soon leave them as sheep without a shepherd. And would not one  
and

and all, upon the demise of their present able and faithful instructors, willingly have their places supplied with such as will walk in their steps? It is our invaluable privilege, as Dissenters, to have the free choice of our spiritual guides; but the privilege subsides where no candidates are ready that are worthy our choice. In instances, not a few, our congregations have been necessitated to take up with such as they could *obtain*, rather than such as in their judgment they can cordially approve. And how should it be otherwise, while (in many churches) there is not the least foresight exercised, the least measure taken, the least concern shewed about a future supply, till their pressing necessities are such that they must disperse without one. This is a very sober and affecting truth, and one of the sad and striking proofs, that we are retired many degrees backward from the wisdom and zeal of our forefathers.

“ I am aware of the trite and trivial plea, that our country communities are so small, and the substantial among them so few, that it is not without considerable difficulty they can comfortably provide for their present teachers, without being at any additional expences on this or any other account. I make no difficulty of admitting this, in many instances, to be true; but it is no less

less so, that some hundreds of our congregations, in large towns and populous villages, are as well capacitated to support their ministers, and exert themselves liberally on other occasions too, as many are in the metropolis: and there are, indeed, but few christian societies but what have some individuals among them, who, had they inclinations answerable to their abilities, would make no difficulty of an handsome contribution once in the year at least, to so good, so great, and so interesting a design. And I cannot help flattering myself, that a great number of able and well-disposed Christians, that now look upon themselves as little concerned with an affair of this nature as the inhabitants of the Indies, upon a proper and thorough representation, and personal application made on this account, might be easily induced, readily and chearfully, to promote so necessary and good a work. If the present essay is a means of exciting ministers and others to a becoming activity in this respect, and of preparing such sincere and well-disposed friends of religion, to a friendly reception to such applications, one considerable part of my present pains will be agreeably answered. And I am animated with the pleasing hope, to which I join most ardent prayers to the Most High, that it will not be altogether a labour in vain."

After

After this animating address, so applicable to the subject of this account, and so entirely conformable to our design, we shall make but one remark, viz. That it would be highly desirable for parents, ministers, and christian friends, to be fully and firmly on their guard against undue influence from the outward circumstances, the riches or poverty of a *sensible, sober, modest and truly pious youth*. Such have been found in the *humblest station and narrowest walk* in life, and they have proved, by their application to studies, and their labour and success in the ministry, that the hopes of their encouragers were not ill-founded. And who can deny that such have been also found in *higher stations* and wealthy circumstances?—But have *these* been *equally* encouraged? If a young man, of the description now mentioned, has in hand, or in prospect, a few hundreds or thousands to enter upon secular business, with the probability of improving his capital, is it not very unlikely that *he* will be encouraged by his friends, except his own inclination be inflexible? Verily, *Brethren, these things ought not so to be*. Is the dignity and importance of the ministerial office a *fact*, or is it the mere declamation of priestcraft? If the former, why should secular employments, or the idle life of a mere man of fortune, because leading to or connected with more of what is called property, be insurmountable barriers placed in



in the way of a promising youth to study for the christian ministry? Who might dispense truths that royal prophets and the incarnate Son of God delighted to dispense, and who, by turning many to righteousness, would be the instruments of imparting more extensive and real blessings to men than would be the possession of all the property of the Indies.

This remark would have been spared had not the other extreme, the admission of young men for students in divinity *merely* on account of respectable connections, been strongly guarded.—What we would leave warm upon our reader's heart are, in the words of *The serious Address* before quoted, “the pressing wants of our religious communities—the absolute necessity of more general efforts and more effectual measures for their supply—the expediency of educating a greater number of studious youth for the sacred employment—and the need there is of the generous contributions of such as are able, to so good a design—and as the matter of greatest consequence of all, that the utmost care be taken in respect of the leading qualifications of all those that are encouraged in their preparations for so momentous a service—and that the special season of exercising this important care is at the *admission* of our youth into our seminaries of academical education—that

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this

this is the critical season, when it is chiefly in the power of conscientious tutors and managers to prevent the disqualified from intruding into the sacred office—and that the enquiring out, and recommending such as deserve encouragement, challenge the general cares of the churches of Christ."

